

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06375 181230Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 055269

O 181144Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1200

S E C R E T BEIRUT 6375

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, AEMR

SUBJECT: VISIT TO MARONITE SECTOR

REF: STATE 177762

1. I APPRECIATE CONSIDERATIONS THAT HAVE LED TO DEPT'S CONCLUSION THAT

I SHOULD NOT RPT NOT VISIT MARONITE SECTOR FROM CPYRUS AFTER MY DEPARTURE FROM WEST BEIRUT. IN THIS CONNECTION, HOWEVER, I SHOULD REPORT CONVERSATION I JUST HAD ON TELEPHONE WITH CHARLES MALIK IN JOUNIE. (TELEPHONE HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN ROW.) I HAD CALLED MALIK TO OBTAIN HIS ASSISTANCE IN GETTING 100 PER CENT ASSURANCES FROM MARONITE LEADERS THAT THEY WILL HOLD THEIR FIRE ON DAY WE EVACUATE.

2. AFTER I HAD EXPLAINED TO MALIK, AS I HAVE TO EVERYONE ELSE, THAT SECURITY CONDITIONS HAVE NOT PERMITTED ME TO VISIT THAT SECTOR, HE SAID THAT I SHOULD OF COURSE TAKE NO RISKS. HOWEVER, MARONITE LEADERS NOT FIND MEANS TO TRANSPORT ITS AMBASSADOR OVER TO MARONITE SIDE. AT MINIMUM I COULD COME IN FROM CYPRUS. I TOLD MALIK THAT I WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR WAYS OF MAKING VISIT. IN MEANTIME, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AS EARLY CONTACT AS POSSIBLE, I MIGHT DISPATCH SUBORDINATE OFFICER.

3. MALIK SAID THAT SENDING ANYONE BELOW MY LEVEL WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE VIEWD FAVORABLY BY MARONITE LEADERS. THEY WOULD CONSIDER THIS LESS THAN EVEN-HANDED. HE STRONGLY URGED THAT EVERY EFFORT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06375 181230Z

BE MADE TO GET ME OVER THERE. HE CHARACTERIZED SECTOR AS COMPLETELY

SAFE AND SECURE AND SAID THAT WE SHOULD HAVE NO CONCERNS ON THAT SCORE.

4. COMMENT: I SUGGEST THAT WE MAY WISH TO KEEP OPEN POSSIBILITY OF MY GOING INTO MARONITE SECTOR FROM CYPRUS AND MAKE FINAL DECISION ONCE I HAVE ARRIVED IN ATHENS (OR WHEREVER). AT THAT TIME WE MAY HAVE BETTER FEEL TO WHAT EXTENT MY GOING THERE WILL FURTHER CONTRIBUTE TO BELIEF THAT U.S. IS COLLABORATING WITH MARONITES AND SYRIANS IN "PLOT" AGAINST MOSLEM LEBANON. LEBANESE PERSONALITIES HERE CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE OBLIGATION TO TALK TO CHRISTIAN LEADERS. ALSO I HAVE NO CONCERNS ABOUT MY SAFETY IN WHAT IS NOW PRETTY SECURE MARONITE ZONE. OBVIOUSLY, WE MUST BALANCE OFF UNDERSIRABILITY OF CONTRIBUTING FURTHER TO MYTHOLOGY OF OUR COLLABORATION WITH MARONITES VERSUS NEED TO GET IN CONTACT WITH MARONITE LEADERS--AND IN THE PROCESS, PERHAPS, URGE THEM TO COME OFF THEIR HIGH HORSE.
SEELYE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY EVACUATION, AMBASSADORS, VISITS, EVACUATION PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760276-0904
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760746/aaaabopj.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 177762
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO MARONITE SECTOR
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AEMR, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006